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SURVEY OF ALBANIA

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OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES

Research and Analysis Branch

SURVEY OF ALBANIA

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The Office of Strategic Services regards the following sections of the Strategic Survey of Albania as inadequate:

Section III -- Paragraphs 20 and 21 -- Living and Labor Conditions

Paragraph 23 --Education

Paragraph 25 -- Public Order and Police

Paragraph 26 -- Press, Propaganda, and Censorship

Section V -- Paragraph 34 -- Railroads

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STRATEGIC SURVEY OF ALBANIA

Section III

July 31, 1942

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Section III

POPULATION AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

15. General

a. History. The history of Albania is remote and complicated, reaching far back into the pre-Christian era.

In ancient times, parts of Albania were known as Illyria and Epirus. The ancient Greeks had colonies in Albania, and the Romans made a province of it.

After the division and breakdown of the Roman Empire, and during the Middle Ages, Albania was under the rule of the Byzantine Empire, of native chieftains, of Bulgars, of Serbs, and of Italians (notably the Venetians).

Albania enjoyed relative independence (about 1444-1466) under Skanderbeg, her brilliant native chieftain and greatest national hero, who fought the Turks.

Turkish rule of Albania lasted for the greater part of the period from the fifteenth century to 1913. Under Turkish rule, many Albanians abandoned Christianity and became Mohammedans.

Albania became an independent sovereign state in 1913. But she was in a chaotic condition for several years. Prince William of Wied, selected by the Great Powers to rule Albania, held power only for several months in 1914. During the First World War, Albania was overrun by seven different armies. After the war, Italians and Yugoslavs competed for control. By 1921, they were forced to withdraw, and Albania began to enjoy relative peace and progress.

In 1925, a constituent assembly proclaimed Albania a republic. Ahmed Zog was elected President. In 1928, a constituent assembly proclaimed a monarchy, and Zog became Zog I, King of the Albanians.

Albania found it difficult to obtain foreign capital for her economic and administrative development and also to maintain her independence. From 1926 to 1939, Albania was virtually an Italian dependency.

On April 7, 1939, Italy, dissatisfied with Zog, her former puppet, forcibly occupied Albania and drove Zog into exile. A few days later, the Albanian crown was offered to the King of Italy, who accepted. During the Italo-Greek war from October, 1940 to April, 1941, the Greeks occupied most of southern Albania. Italy reoccupied Albania, with German aid, and has since controlled the country. For further details, see Section IV.

b. Area and people. The area of Albania is 10,632.4218 square miles.

Albania is divided into prefectures, which are similar to provinces. The following table shows the area of each prefecture and the number of communes in each prefecture, according to a 1939 source:

Prefecture	Number of Communes	Area in square miles
Argirocastro	25	1599.2262
Berat	23	1518.1452
Coriza	24	1278.7632
Cossova	10	924.3235
Dibra	20	941.2346
Durazzo	14	614.2156
Elbasan	18	1140.2255
Scutari	29	1880.3070
Tirana	7	328.1850
Valona	10	525.0960
Total	180	10,632.4218

The Albanians are ethnically homogeneous. There are two main groups: (1) the Ghegs, living north of the river Shkumbi; (2) the Tosks, living south of the river. The Ghegs or northerners are generally tall and fair in complexion, while the Tosks or southerners are generally medium in size and darker in complexion.

16. Population.

a. Statistics. There has been no good or comprehensive census of Albania.

b. Total population. The total population of Albania in 1939 was 1,063,893. It was estimated to be 1,078,195 in August, 1940.

c. Population of prefectures. The following table shows the population of each prefecture in 1939:

Argirocastro	156,378
Berat	164,931
Coriza	165,508
Cossova	45,538
Dibra	91,359
Durazzo	86,644
Elbasan	107,088
Scutari	137,277
Tirana	53,633
Valona	55,537
Total	1,063,893

d. Population of principal cities and towns. The following is based on figures and estimates since 1930:

Argirocastro	10,836
Berat	10,403
Coriza	22,787
Delvino	4,000
Durazzo	9,739
Elbasan	13,796

Fieri	3,700
Kukës	800
Leshovik	2,500
Permet	3,000
Peshkopia	2,000
Pogradec	3,400
Santi Quaranta	2,000
Scutari	29,209
Tirana	30,806
Valona	9,106

17. Ethnic and social groups.

a. Albanians. They are ethnically homogeneous. They have maintained their homogeneity since ancient times and despite many invasions and centuries of foreign rule.

b. Foreign groups. The following foreign groups are small in number: Vlachs; Bulgars; Serbs; Gypsies; Greeks. Although about 30,000 people in southern Albania speak Greek, they are Albanians.

c. Social structure and distinctions. Most of the social organization is based on "tribal", semi-feudal, and religious factors. Religion is discussed in par. 24.

The basis of Albanian society is the family, which is remarkably cohesive as a social unit. The family is the foundation of numerous family clans (or tribes) and septs. A sept is a social group united by a belief in a common ancestor. Clans, septs or family tribes predominate in northern Albania and are so important that many of them are recognized units of local government (see par. 26; par. 27, d.,(4)). Elders of family groups and heads of families enjoy great prestige.

There are the usual social distinctions between large landowners and peasants; and between mountaineers on the one hand and town-dwellers and plainsmen on the other.

Regional differences exist between the northern Ghegs and the southern Tosks, the latter having a more advanced outlook and development.

Those educated in the West consider themselves superior to those educated in the Balkans or Turkey.

Despite all differences and distinctions, Albanians have a strong sense of nationalism.

18. Language.

Albanian is the language of Albania. It is a modern version of an ancient Illyrian tongue and is spoken throughout the kingdom. It has not yet taken a settled form, and different spellings are current.

There are two main dialects: Gheg, spoken north of the river Shkumbi; Tosk, spoken south of the river. Differences in these dialects are so marked that those using them have considerable difficulty in understanding one another.

English is virtually not spoken or understood, except perhaps in the hotels and restaurants of the principal cities and in centers with returning emigrants from the United States. Most of these emigrants are in southern Albania.

Interpreters are needed and may be found in the United States among Albanians and Americans of Albanian extraction.

Greek is spoken by about 30,000 people in southern Albania.

19. Characteristics of the people.

a. General. The Albanians are among the least known peoples of Europe. They show a variety of characteristics, depending on geographical location, degree of culture, occupation, and religious belief. They are mainly a mountain folk, and generally speaking, have the characteristics of such folk.

b. Traditions and customs. They are old and deep-seated, and may seem crude and primitive to a stranger. Albanians are proud of their long history and the maintenance of their individuality as a people. Religious beliefs go far back. Strong family ties are the basis of their "tribal" system. The vendetta or blood feud in northern Albania is not considered a serious crime. A virtue is the strong bond of the bessa or pledge. The breach of the plighted word cuts one off from his family group. Women are protected by the bessa, and adultery is uncommon. Albanians are noted for their courtesy and hospitality, which are freely extended to foreigners. Family groups and regions retain age-old folkways, dances, and manner of dress.

c. Temperament and stamina. Albanians are stubborn, suspicious, intelligent, and courageous. Their perspicacity is striking, despite the lack of formal education. The habit of self-defense, on an individual, "tribal", or national scale, has made them resourceful.

The people are in general very hard-working. The plainsmen along the coast are more indolent than the highlanders. Albanians have extraordinary stamina, and however poor, they can endure hardship. Despite their poverty, they are vivacious.

A small minority of foreign observers hold that the Albanians are lazy, unintelligent, and lacking in ambition, as shown by their failure to develop their potentially rich country.

d. Military qualities. Albanians are combative and courageous. They make excellent soldiers, particularly for guernilla warfare, provided they are led by Albanians. They are reluctant to fight under foreigners, a fact that the Italians have failed to appreciate. If we wish to utilize them, we should allow them a relatively independent armed corps.

e. Respect for authority. Albanians have reverence for religious authority, for the head of the family or family tribe, and for armed secular authority.

f. Political capacity. Albanians have no tradition of self-rule.

g. Attitude towards the United States. Albanians are very friendly to the United States, so much so that if they could not be independent, they would prefer an international mandate, provided the United

States shared in administering it. They recall President Wilson's friendly attitude towards them at the Peace Conference in 1919. See par. 18, and par. 29.

20--21. Living and labor conditions.

The living standards of the overwhelming majority are low and almost semi-primitive. A small minority, made up of large landowners, professional people, government officials, prosperous merchants, and upper clergy, enjoy a decent living standard.

Unskilled labor is plentiful and cheap. Skilled labor is rare and is available only in the principal cities. There are many hand craftsmen. Rates of pay for skilled and unskilled labor are not available. They are rather low from our point of view, but not from an Albanian point of view. Ten to fifteen cents an hour is considered a reasonable wage for unskilled labor, and fifteen to twenty-five cents an hour is considered a reasonable wage for skilled labor.

22. Public health, sanitation, and hospitals.

This section is being prepared by the Office of the Surgeon General, United States Army.

23. Education.

The slightly developed educational system is under state control, exercised by the Ministry of National Education. About 45 percent of the people are illiterate. In 1939, there were 663 primary schools, and 19 secondary schools, which included a normal school at Elbasan, schools of agriculture at Lushnja and Kavaja, and a technical school at Tirana. Italians have established a few technical schools. There are some schools under religious control. There are no universities.

24. Religion.

Albanians are divided into three important religious groups: Moslems, (Greek) Orthodox, Roman Catholic. The Moslems, who represent about 70 percent of the Albanian population, predominate in all prefectures, except Argirocastro and Scutari. The Albanian Moslems have broken with the Caliphate and have proclaimed their religious autonomy. The Albanian Orthodox church has constituted itself an independent church, with the consent of the Patriarch of Constantinople.

The following table shows the composition of the Albanian population according to religion, in 1930.

Prefecture	Religion				
	Moslems	(Greek) Orthodox	Roman Catholic	Jewish	Others
Argirocastro	71,323	72,397	148	53	5
Berat	105,217	37,226	169	-	4
Coriza	95,222	52,052	196	2	64
Cossova	45,228	23	3,868	-	-
Dibra	76,561	945	9,486	-	-
Durazzo	64,685	6,685	6,478	10	32
Elbasan	103,432	7,568	441	1	-
Scutari	48,463	2,258	81,570	11	5
Tirana	51,231	3,671	2,814	35	57
Valona	34,977	17,895	483	92	14
Total	696,339	200,720	105,653	204	181

Religious differences do not seriously affect the nationalist feeling of Albanians. Albanians are extremely tolerant in religious matters. The 1939 constitution, imposed by Italy, guarantees religious toleration.

25. Public order and police.

The Albanian state is a thoroughgoing police state, under Italian Fascist control, supervising all activities of its subjects. The native

Albanian police has been placed under Italian control. The police are under the jurisdiction of the President of the Council of Ministers.

Albanians are turbulent, but they fear armed authority.

26. Press, propaganda, and censorship.

All means of oral and written communication are rigidly controlled and censored by the government. The press and propaganda office is under the President of the Council of Ministers, an Albanian dominated by Italians.

The press is a more effective medium for propaganda than the radio. Albanians are generally skeptical of conventional propaganda slogans. If no real government is in control, the best approach is to large landowners and to the heads of family tribes. (See par. 17, c.; par. 27, d.,(4)).

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STRATEGIC SURVEY OF ALBANIA

Section IV

July 29, 1942

(6827)

Section IV

POLITICAL

27. Government.

a. Background. Italy forcibly occupied Albania on April 7, 1939. A few days later, an Albanian constituent assembly, independent in name but controlled by Italy, abolished the Albanian constitution, voted personal union with Italy, and offered the crown of Albania to King Victor Emmanuel III of Italy and his descendants. The King accepted. Thus was effected the union of the Crown of the Kingdom of Albania with that of the Kingdom of Italy in the person of the King of Italy and his descendants.

The fundamental law of Albania is the Statuto fondamentale or constitution granted by King Victor Emmanuel on June 3, 1939.

b. Form and reality. The government of Albania, like the government of Italy, is legally a constitutional monarchy, but actually a Fascist military dictatorship. Both Italy and Albania are actually governed by one man--Benito Mussolini, and by one party--the Fascist party. The Albanian Fascist Party, made up largely of Albanians, is an instrument of the Italian Fascist Party. The dictatorships of Italy and Albania are authoritarian, hierarchical, highly centralized, and anti-democratic.

c. Stability of present government. It depends on the stability of the government of Italy and the power of Italy to maintain military control over Albania.

There is much opposition to Italian control, increased by the fact that Italy is ruled by Fascists. The opposition is not well-organized and is not strong enough to seize power. There appears to be no immediate prospect that the present Albanian government will be overthrown.

If the Italian Fascist regime should fall but the Italian monarchy should survive, Albania may continue, or may choose to remain, under the sovereignty of the Italian state and ruling house. Many Albanians who are opposed to Italian Fascism and Fascists are friendly to Italy and Italians.

d. Organization and functioning. The 1939 constitution divides the government into the three usual branches: executive, legislative, and judicial. There is no real separation of powers. All real power is centered in the executive. The so-called legislative and judicial branches are mere administrative units, subject to the will of the executive.

(1) Executive. The nominal executive of Albania is Victor Emmanuel III, King of Italy and of Albania, Emperor of Ethiopia. He married Princess Elena of Montenegro. His son and heir-apparent is Prince Humbert, born in 1904. The crown of Albania is hereditary in the male line.

The actual executive of Albania is Benito Mussolini, Duce (leader) of Italian Fascism, and Prime Minister and Head of the Government of Italy.

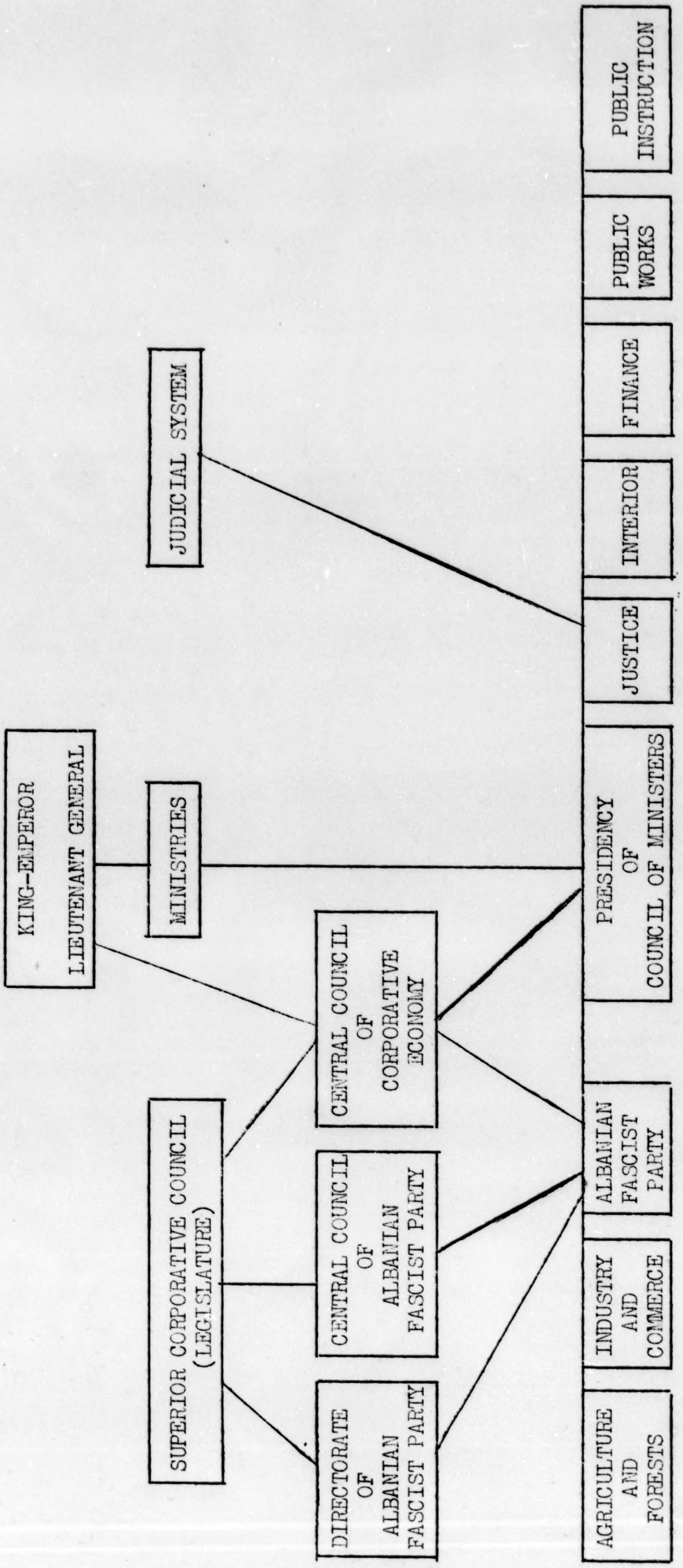
The King's executive power in Albania, like his power in Italy, is exercised by Mussolini or by authorities under Mussolini's control.

As the King does not reside in Albania, he is represented there by a Lieutenant General, who is appointed by the King on the proposal of Mussolini. The Lieutenant General exercises all the powers of the King except those which the King expressly reserves to himself. The authority of the Lieutenant General in Albania is as nominal as that of the King in Italy. The Lieutenant General is now Francesco Jacomoni.

It must be remembered that when speaking of the authority of the King or of the Lieutenant General in Albania, the authority of Mussolini and of the Italian Fascists is meant.

Council of Ministers or Cabinet. Cabinet Ministers are appointed and dismissed by the King. They are responsible to the King, not to Parliament. All the Cabinet Ministers are Albanians. This concession to Albania is decidedly helpful to Italian rule. The concession is qualified by the fact that each ministry has a permanent Italian adviser.

ORGANIZATION OF THE ALBANIAN GOVERNMENT


KING-EMPEROR
LIEUTENANT GENERAL
MINISTRIES
JUDICIAL SYSTEM
SUPERIOR CORPORATIVE COUNCIL (LEGISLATURE)
CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CORPORATIVE ECONOMY
CENTRAL COUNCIL OF ALBANIAN FASCIST PARTY
DIRECTORATE OF ALBANIAN FASCIST PARTY
AGRICULTURE AND FORESTS
INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE
ALBANIAN FASCIST PARTY
PRESIDENCY OF COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
JUSTICE
INTERIOR
FINANCE
PUBLIC WORKS
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Ministerial functions have not been completely defined. There are no ministries for Foreign Affairs, War, Navy, and Air. These subjects are administered by the Italian government in Rome.

The following is a list of ministerial offices, their respective functions, and in some cases, the names of ministers:

Presidency of Council of Ministers. Among its important functions is jurisdiction over the police, the press, propaganda, and tourism. The President of the Council of Ministers is Mustafa Merlika Kruja, an Albanian. His predecessor, Shevket Verlaci, also an Albanian, is now a Minister of State of the Kingdom of Italy.

Albanian Fascist Party. The party's secretary sits ex-officio as Minister. There is no ministerial office for the party. The present secretary is an Albanian, Tefik Mborica.

Justice. Jurisdiction over the judicial system.

Interior. Jurisdiction over local governments and public health.

Finance. All fiscal matters.

Public Works. Jurisdiction over communications, including mails and telegraphs, and over the construction of buildings, roads, bridges.

Public Instruction. Jurisdiction over the educational system.

Industry and Commerce. Jurisdiction over these.

Agriculture and Forests. Jurisdiction over agriculture, forestry, land-reclamation, fisheries.

(2) Legislative. Legislative power is exercised by the King in collaboration with a single legislative assembly--the Superior Fascist Corporative Council. The entire membership--about 66--is ex-officio, and consists of members of the Central Council and Directorate of the Albanian Fascist Party, and of regular--not associate--members of the Central Council of Corporative Economy. The members of the last-named

body are appointed by the King on the proposal of the President of the Council of Ministers, in agreement with the secretary of the Albanian Fascist Party.

The Superior Fascist Corporative Council has virtually no legislative power. It is convoked and prorogued by the King. No subject can be placed on its agenda without the King's authorization. The King may issue decrees having the force of law, which are later presented to the Council for formal conversion into law. The King and the Council may propose laws. But only the King may propose laws of a constitutional character or laws involving increases of expenditure. Bills approved by the Council may be vetoed by the King. In effect, the Council discusses bills and rubber-stamps the decree-laws of the King.

The Council has the right to accuse Cabinet Ministers of crimes committed in the exercise of their functions and to bring such Ministers before the High Court of Justice.

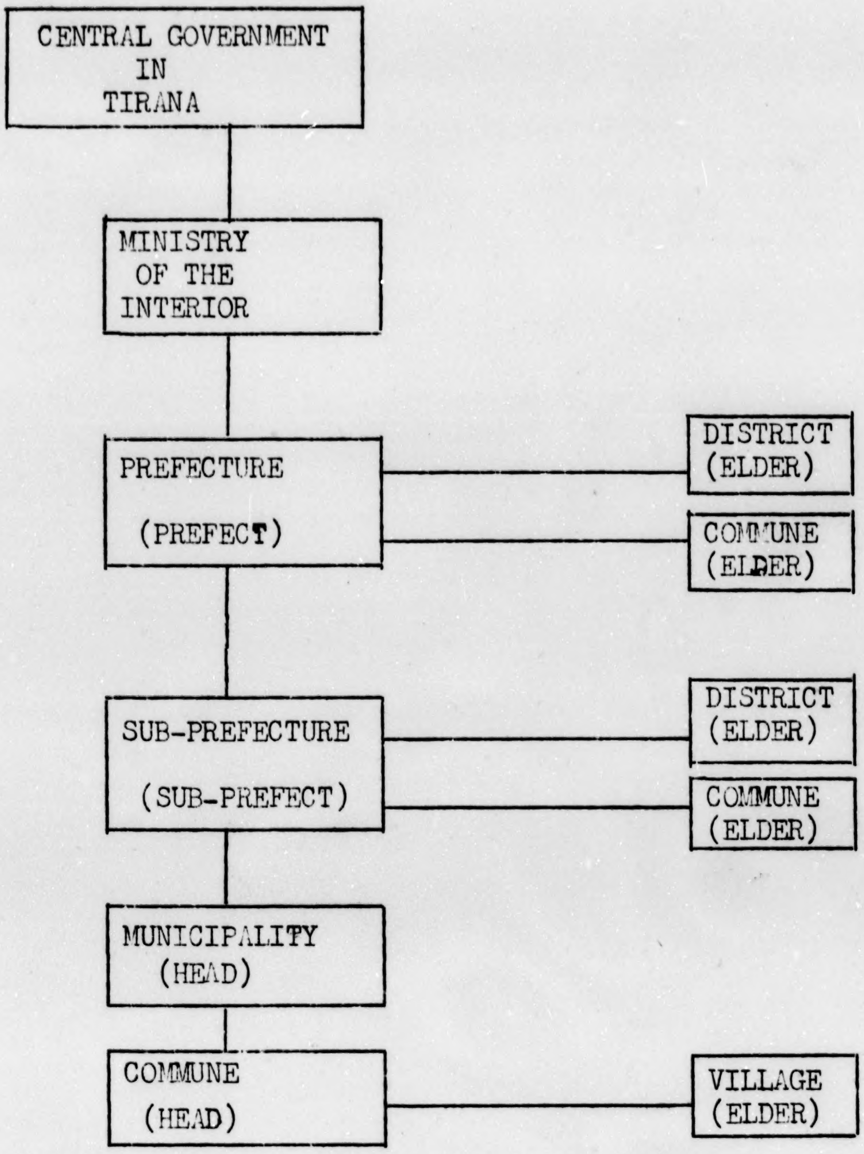
(3) Judicial. Justice emanates from the King and is administered in his name, usually by the Ministry of Justice.

There are two supreme magistracies: (1) High Court of Justice, consisting of 9 members appointed by the King, which tries Cabinet Ministers accused by the Superior Fascist Corporative Council; (2) Court of Cassation.

Regular Courts. All with civil and criminal jurisdiction. They are: (1) Court of Cassation, the highest court of appeal; (2) Tribunals of the First Instance; (3) Tribunals of Peace (like our Justices of the Peace).

(4) Local government. Local governments have no inherent powers. Their officials are not elected but are appointed by the central government and they are controlled by the Ministry of the Interior. The same is true of the advisers and the advisory councils of local officials. Local governments carry out the regulations of the national ministries, principally those of the Ministry of the Interior.

ORGANIZATION OF THE ALBANIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT


CENTRAL GOVERNMENT IN TIRANA
MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR
PREFECTURE (PREFECT)
DISTRICT (ELDER)
COMMUNE (ELDER)
SUB-PREFECTURE (SUB-PREFECT)
DISTRICT (ELDER)
COMMUNE (ELDER)
MUNICIPALITY (HEAD)
COMMUNE (HEAD)
VILLAGE (ELDER)

The prefect is the most important local official. He wields much administrative and police power and also much authority over other local officials.

Unusual units of local government are certain designated districts, communes, and villages headed by elders, who are public officials, appointed by the government. These units are organized out of deference to the survival of family tribes. (See par. 17,c.; par. 26).

The following shows the subdivisions for local government and their respective leading officials:

Subdivisions:	Leading Official of Each Subdivision:
Prefectures	Prefect
Sub-Prefectures	Sub-Prefect
Municipalities	Municipal Head
Communes	Commune Head
Certain Districts, Communes, and Villages	Elder

28. Political parties and issues.

Albania is a one-party state. The Partito Fascista Albanese (PFA)--Albanian Fascist Party, made up largely of native Albanians, is controlled by the Italian Fascist Government and Party officials. According to its constitution, the PFA is a voluntary civil militia at the orders of Mussolini, creator and Duce of Fascism. All party members take an oath of allegiance to Mussolini. The party exercises much authority over the Albanian population. Its structure parallels that of the state. It performs a variety of functions in the political, educational, welfare, economic, and corporative fields.

The party's secretary, who is now Tefik Mborica, is the leading official of the party. He is appointed and dismissed by the King in collaboration with the President of the Albanian Council of Ministers and the secretary of the Italian Fascist Party. The secretary of the Albanian

Fascist Party receives the directives and orders of the Duce from the secretary of the Italian Fascist Party. He sits in the Cabinet as a Minister (see above, par. 27, d.,(1) under Council of Ministers). He has considerable authority over subordinate officials in the party.

There are no political issues in the usual sense of the term. The greatest issue, that of Italian control, is not discussed in the open.

29. Foreign policy.

Albania's foreign relations are controlled and administered by the Italian government in Rome. Although formally at war with the United States, Albania has virtually no tradition or feeling of opposition or animosity against the United States. The general population and ruling circles are friendly to us. Many of them have close ties with Albanian immigrants in this country. There are in the United States about 50,000 Albanians, i.e. native Albanians and Americans of Albanian descent.

If Albania could not be independent, she would prefer an international mandate, provided the United States shared in administering it.

If Albania must be controlled by a contiguous power, she would prefer Italy (under non-Fascists) to Yugoslavia or Greece.

30. Important alien groups.

None. See par. 17, b.

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OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES

RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS BRANCH

SURVEY OF ALBANIA (SECTION V)

December 3, 1942

Copy No. ___________

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Section V

ECONOMIC

31. General.

a. Introduction. Albania's economic system is very primitive. It is primarily an agricultural one.

Albania is normally self-sufficient in fresh vegetables (including olives), livestock, fish, eggs, cheese. She is normally deficient in rice and about 90 percent deficient in sugar. She produces no coffee.

In recent years, as late as through 1938, Albania had been deficient in wheat and maize. The shortage years are generally draught years.

There is no vegetable-canning industry in Albania. Tomato paste and tomato sauce are manufactured in limited quantities.

Albania is potentially rich in cultivable land and certain minerals.

b. Land utilization. On area generally, see par. 15, b.

The State owns some 123,500 acres of the best land in the plain between the Shkumbi and Voiussa Rivers. The greater part of the country is rugged, wild and mountainous, except along the Adriatic littoral and the Córiza basin, which are fertile.

The following table shows productive and unproductive land area as of 1938:

	Productive Acres	Percentage of total area
Tilled land	744,931	10,94
Meadows	74,131	1.09
Pastures	2,041,474	30.01
Uncultivated arable land	748,541	11.01
Woods and forests	2,449,770	35.98
Total productive area	6,058,847	89.03

Unproductive	Acres	Percentage of total area
Water and marsh	337,775	4.98
Rocky land, etc.	408,295	5.99
Total	746,070	10.97

Since the Italian occupation, the reclamation of about 454,000 acres was begun in the following areas: Lake Moliqi, near Córiza; the Butrinto marshes; the Voiussa valley; the deltas of the Semeni and Shkumbi; the marshy lagoon of Terbuf, near Lúshnja; the marshes between Durazzo and Aléssio and the plain of Zadrima, including the marshes of Kakarrici.

c. Agriculture. On sufficiency, see above, subpar. a.

(1) Foodstuffs. The following table shows Albanian production of foodstuffs, in metric tons, for 1936-39:

	1936	1937	1938	1939
Wheat	30,096	44,527.8	44,910.2	50.2 (000's)
Maize	124,628.5	136,995.3	155,345.5	123.4 (000's)
Barley	4,075.8	5,908.7	4,975.1	5.2 (000's)
Oats	7,583	11,142.7	11,255.9	13.0 (000's)
Rye	2,922	3,823.3	3,279.1	3.2 (000's)
Hay	85,389,8	82,911	68,102.7	67,211.3
Rice	409	920.8	993.5	6.0 (000's)
Potatoes	1,229	3,266.9	2,429.7	3,498.3
Onions	368	2,927.7	2,414.9	2,814.6
Grapes	8,631.7	12,039.5	18,684.7	8.8 (000's)
Olives	9,246	35,308.6	12,958.9	28.9 (000's)

Wheat is one of the principal items of the Albanian diet. The Moslems are the largest consumers of maize. Barley and rye are raised chiefly for fodder.

The following shows areas of production:

Product	Areas of Production
Wheat	Cavája
Barley	Córiza
	Drinopulo valley
	Tirana fields
	Zadrima plain
	Bérat - Fieri - Lúshnja (Musácchia) area
	A large amount of barley is grown in the Kolonjë area.
Maize	Aléssio
	Argirocastro
	Cavája
	Delvino
	Elbasan
	Musácohia
	Scútari
	Tirana - Durazzo
	Flour mills are found in Porto Edda (Santi Quaranta), Valona, Córiza, Elbasan, Cavája, Durazzo, Tirana, Scútari. These are sufficient for requirements of the people. Old-fashioned water mills (grindstone) are found throughout Albania.
Rice White rice	Maritime areas of central and northern Albania.
Potatoes	In all parts of Albania, but principally in the following areas:
	Bérat
	Córiza
	Fieri
	Permeti
	Scútari

Product	Areas of Production
Onions	Bérat Córiza Delvino Fieri Permeti Scútari
Olives The olive tree is extensively cultivated along the coast, being found as far as 50 miles inland. The principal groves are in the following areas:	Bérat Chimara Delvino Mallakaster Porto Edda (Santi Quaranta) Valona
Lesser areas are:	Argirocastro (Dhrino valley) Elbasan Permeti Scútari Tirana
Olives give a good yield only every second year because of the careless garnering of the crop. See table, above. There are no modern olive oil refineries in Albania. Some oil is refined in Elbasan and Valona. A large quantity of crushed olives goes to Italy for refining.	

Product	Areas of Production
Sugar	Sugar beets are grown in the following areas: Córiza, Cavája, Musácchia There is a beet sugar refinery in Córiza A small quantity of cane sugar is grown in the following areas: Cavája, Fieri Lúshnja

(2) Livestock. Albania normally raises enough livestock and beasts of burden to take care of her needs. She was able to make substantial exports as late as 1938. Lamb is an important item in the Albanian diet. A limited number of pigs is raised, for pork is not popular, particularly among the Moslems. Albania is rich in game.

The following shows the number of certain animals in 1938:

Cows	113,235	
Calves	109,750	
Lambs	289,931	✓
Wethers	1,283,926	✓
Kids	176,298	
He-goats	60,593	
Goats	695,442	✓
Pigs	15,286	
Buffaloes	21,486	
Oxen	168,193	
Horses	54,426	
Mules	10,391	
Asses	44,579	

The following are important livestock areas:

Cattle	Mostly in the lowlands, especially in the following areas:
	Koníspoli - Delvino
	Fieri - Bérat, particularly Musácchia
	Lúshnja
	Cavája
	Elbasan
	Tirana
	Aléssio
	Scútari
Sheep	Koníspoli - Delvino
	Fieri - Bérat - Lúshnja
	Aléssio
	Scútari
Goats	Mostly in the highlands
Buffaloes	Lúshnja
	Cavája
	Shijak
	Tirana
Horses	Konníspoli
	Delvino
	Valòna
	Fieri
	Bérat
	Lúshnja
	Cavája
	Scútari

A wartime estimate of the livestock population is difficult, primarily because Albania has been in the theater of operations.

(3) Dairy products. Most of the milk comes from goats and sheep.

Old primitive methods of making butter prevail throughout Albania. Modern equipment has been installed in Córiza, Argirocastro, Tirana, Valona, Scútari.

Albania is normally self-sufficient in cheese.

d. Fish. The coastal waters of Albania are rich in fish. Albania's export of fish -- fresh, salted, and smoked -- for 1934 through 1938, was, in metric tons:

Year	Exportation
1934	531.4
1935	380.9
1936	185.8
1937	285.6
1938	252.9

e. Alcohol. Alcohol and other spirits are manufactured in Tirana, Durazzo, Córiza, Perparimi (Pogradec), Scútari.

f. Tobacco. Production for 1934 through 1939 was, in metric tons:

Year	Production
1934	1468.3
1935	1528.2
1936	1607.3
1937	1500
1938	1955
1939	2668.9

Superior tobacco is raised in the Elbasan and Scútari areas. Other areas of production are: Porto Edda (Santi Quaranta)-Delvino; Argirocastro; Berat - Fieri; Cavája - Durazzo; Córiza plain(to a certain extent).

There may still be cigarette factories in Córiza, Elbasan, Tirana, Durazzo, Scútari.

g. Forests. Albania is covered with extensive forests. The total forest land has been figured at 35.98 percent. The greatest part belongs to the State.

The principal trees are: oak, fir, pine, beech, elm, roble, hazel, cedar. Some trees - fir, pine, oak, elm - reach a height of 150 - 200 feet.

The following shows the forest coverage:

Northern Albania

Region	Trees
Ducagini	Oak Elm Hazel Roble
Boga-Theti	Oak Pine Fir Elm Beech
Mirditi (Fandi i Vogel and Fandi i Madhe rivers)	Oak Beech Roble Pine
Peshkopia - Dibra	Fir Oak Elm Beech Roble Hazel

Central Albania

Region	Trees
Mati (river)	Oak Beech Elm Cedar Hazel Fir (small numbers)
Krabe	Oak Elm Beech Cedar
Mokra	Oak Hazel Elm Beech Roble Pine

Tomori	Oak Fir Pine Cedar Elm Beech

Southern Albania

Region	Trees
Vitkuci - Passo di (Qaf' e Qarrit)	Pine Oak Cedar Beech Elm
Danglli	Fir Beech Oak Elm Roble Hazel
Desniza (river)	Oak Beech Cedar
Kolonjë (area) - Léskovik	Pine Cedar Oak Beech
Chimara - Kurveleshi	Oak Beech Cedar Roble

The utilization of forest land has been seriously hindered by the scarcity of means of communication. The rivers are not suitable for floating timber.

Until 1927, there was no control over the amount of cutting.

h. Agricultural raw materials.

(1) Cotton. Production of fiber and seeds for 1934 through 1939 was, in metric tons:

	Fiber	Seeds
1934	17	138.9
1935	34.4	157.0
1936	30.0	65.5

1937	48.9	94.0
1938	56.7	114.7
1939	83.1	207.9

Cotton is grown primarily in the maritime regions. The principal areas are: Koníspoli - Delvino; Fieri - Lúshnja - Elbasan - Cavája; Aléssio - Scútari (Zadrima).

(2) Flax. Production of flax and linseed for 1934 through 1939 was, in metric tons:

	Flax	Linseed
1934	3.5	47.6
1935	4.1	59.7
1936	33.4	80.2
1937	38.5	76.5
1938	7.8	14.7
1939	17.0	26.7

Flax is raised in the same areas as cotton (see above, h (1)).

(3) Hemp. Hemp is raised in the following areas: Zadrima, Aléssio, Musácchia, Delvino.

(4) Silk. The silk industry is insignificant. Silk worms have been introduced, in recent years, in the lower Semeni and Shkumbi valleys and in the Cavája area.

(5) Rayon. The willow tree -- the primary wood used in the manufacture of rayon -- grows extensively on the banks of the lower Voiussa, the Semeni, Shkumbi, Drin (Scútari area), in the Arzen valleys. The Italians have begun to cultivate the plant.

i. Mineral resources. Albania is rich in minerals. Her principal mineral resources are: oil, bituminous coal, lignite, iron, copper, chromium, gold, silver, bauxite. Except for oil and bituminous coal, her mineral resources are undeveloped or partly developed.

The salt pits at Valona are said to be of commercial importance. Sufficient salt for local needs is obtained by evaporation.

Statistical information is uneven.

__Iron.__ Most of the iron deposits are found in the Mokra range, near Perparimi (Pogradec); on the slope facing Lake Ocrida; the Puka - Kúkës area; and the maritime areas of Chimara, Delvino, and Koníspoli. The Mokra mines appear to be the only ones in operation; these could yield large amounts of ore. Iron ore is sent to Italy.

Miloti mines only.

__Copper.__ Deposits are found near Scútari, around Mazrrek (rich); around Aléssio, on the Drin; near Puka, on the Fandi Grande (Fandi i Madh); in the Rehovë area. Copper ore is sent to Italy for smelting.

Miloti 6000 t pure copper

__Chromium.__ Chromium ore deposits are found in the Mokra range, facing Lake Ocrida (the excavation extends for some 17 miles); around Kúkës and Lumës. Albania produced 14,357 metric tons of chromite from June, 1938 through September, 1939; her potential is greater. The ore is taken to Italy for smelting.

not exploited

__Manganese.__ Pyrolusite (native manganese dioxide) is found in the Córiza area. — Only Pogradec mine

__Coal.__

__Bituminous.__ Albania has several large deposits. The principal mine is that of Selenizza. Other deposits are at Drasciovizza, some seven miles east of Valona, in the Shushicë valley. Best at Krab, 27 km S. of Tirana -

Production for 1936 was 8,686 metric tons; for 1939 10,100.

It was estimated that the production for 1940 would be 20,000 metric tons. It is believed that fuller development of the Drasciovizza mines could raise the total annual production.

Lignite. The Krabe mountain region, in the Tirana - Elbasan - Lúshnja triangle, is rich in lignite. Good lignite is found in the Dibra region, near Peshkopia. Other deposits are the Bukati and Kurveleshi, those near Tepeleni, and the Danglli, Shrapari and Kolonjë areas.

Production in metric tons has been:

Year	Tons
1936	3,130
1937	4,064
1939	7,000

Oil. Oil is Albania's principal mineral resource.

The chief oil field is the Kuchova in the Devoli valley. This covers an area of about 17,500 acres. There are 445 wells, from 250 to 2,500 feet deep. Four stations pump oil into a pipe-line about eight inches in diameter. The pipe-line extends from Kuchova to the sea (Bay of Valona) near Ujt e flofte (Krionero), in the vicinity of Kánina -- a distance of 46 - 50 miles. The capacity is more than 1000 metric tons per 24 hours. At Ujt e flofte are oil dumps and reservoirs with a capacity of over 20,000 metric tons. Oil is transported to Bari, Venice, and Leghorn, where it is refined. It was reported, not long ago, that the Italians had installed refining equipment in Albania.

Oil is found also near Drasciovizza in the Shushicë valley, some eight miles east of Valona. There are oil fields north of Kuchova left of the Devoli River. There is oil also near Aléssio and in the Mati and Elbasan (Shkumbi valley) areas.

The following table shows Albanian production and exportation of crude oil, 1936 through 1939 (in metric tons):

	1936	1937	1938	1939
Production	48,330	87,910	116,820	125,000
Exportation	45,942.6	59,271.0	80,923.9	129,361.7

The highest Italian estimate of Albanian production is 150,000 metric tons per annum.

The limit of the Albanian oil field has been literally estimated by experts to be about ten million tons. While the amount immediately available is limited by the number of wells and the capacity of the present pipeline, steps are being taken to increase these.

The oil possibilities of Albania are much greater than ordinarily supposed. Exploration has not proceeded far enough to determine location and quantity.

Albanian petroleum differs from other oils in its asphaltic base and high sulphur content. By ordinary refining methods, the gasoline yield is no higher than 40 percent. But by the process of hydrogenation, the oil can give 80 percent in gasoline.

Oil Storage.

Place	Details
Argirocastro	Petrol said to be stored in underground chambers and prison cells of an old fort.
Durazzo	Petrol dump at Qafzotaj on site of old Agricultural School in buildings on south side of Durazzo - Tirana road 3 mi. from Durazzo (estimated 20,000 tons).
	Large underground petrol dump in wood near Arapaja 3 mi. east of Durazzo
San Giovanni di Medua	Petrol stores reported.

Valona An oil port	Petrol tanks at Krionero. Petrol depot south of Kuzum Baba hill, near Valona - Kánina road (estimated capacity 1,056,710.4 gal.). According to another report, there may be five underground oil tanks having a capacity of about 250,000 barrels and six ~~25,000 steel~~ tanks at 25,000 barrel capacity on the bluff.

32. Manufacturing.

Albania has no large industrial establishments.

Chemistry: metallurgy. With the exception of a few alcohol distilleries, there has been no manufacture of organic chemicals. On alcohol, see above, par. 31., e.

There is no metallurgical industry except for shops in the principal towns, which produce hand-made tools for agricultural and other purposes.

War industry. There are no factories for making guns, tanks, munitions. The natives make their own powder.

Automobile industry. Bodies for station-wagons, buses and trucks are made in Scútari.

Horse-drawn vehicles. Horse-drawn carriages are made in Scútari, Durazzo, Tirana, Bérat.

Airplane industry. There are no airplane factories.

Textiles. The methods of spinning and weaving are primitive. Native woven textiles are abundant. Blankets and other textiles of excellent quality are manufactured in limited quantities. Fine fabrics are imported.

Shoes. There are no shoe factories in Albania. All towns appear to have shops where shoes are made by hand and repaired.

Soap. There are soap factories in Valona, Durazzo, Tirana, Scútari.

Cement. There is an important factory at Scútari, on the right bank of the Boiana. Another was being built in Elbasan (1940).

On olive oil refineries, beet sugar refineries, dairy industry, alcohol industry, tobacco industry, silk and rayon, petroleum, see par. 31.

33. Utilities.

a. Power. Though Albania is potentially rich in hydroelectric power, the only plant in operation is the one at Vitkuci, which supplies Córiza and surroundings. Other places are dependent for power on wood-burning engines and ~~gasoline~~ oil engines. There are plants, using chiefly ~~gasoline~~ oil engines, at Scútari, Durazzo, Tirana, Elbasan, Bérat, Valona, Porto Edda (Santi Quaranta), Argirocastro. Power plants have recently been installed in smaller towns. The Kuchova oil fields have a modern power plant supplying the residents as well.

The following is a summary of power facilities serving certain places:

Place	System
Argirocastro	Current: D.C. Voltage: 125-150 Prime mover: oil engine.
Bérat	Current: D.C. Voltage: 125-150 Prime mover: oil engine
Córiza	Water power
Durazzo	Current: D.C. Voltage: 125-150 Prime mover: oil engine

Elbasan	Current: D.C. Voltage: 125-150 Prime mover: oil engine
Scútari	Current: D.C. Voltage: 125-150 Prime mover: oil engine
Tirana	Current: A.C. Voltage: 200-250 Prime mover: oil engine
Valona	Current: D.C. and A.C. Voltage: 125 Prime mover: oil engine

b. Water supply. Ample good spring water is obtainable anywhere in the mountain areas. In the plains, water is scarce and of indifferent quality, being obtained from shallow wells. During the hot weather, there is always a seasonal shortage in all towns.

The following is a summary of water facilities for various places:

Place	System
Argirocastro	Wells and cisterns. Distribution by Eastern methods. Supply is short in hot weather. After the Italian occupation, there was a project for bringing water by aqueduct.
Bérat	Ample water supply from river and wells. An aqueduct may now be serving Bérat.
Cavája	Wells and irrigation canals.
Córiza	Ample supply of piped water. An aqueduct may now be serving Córiza.
Durazzo	Wells. After the Italian occupation, a plan was put in hand

	to supply Durazzo from the Arzen river by means of an aqueduct. The water, which could be obtained at the rate of 18.48 gallons per second, was to be filtered and sterilized at source and conveyed 6.2 miles to Durazzo, where it would be stored in reservoirs holding 528,000 gallons. This may now be in operation.
Elbasan	Until recently difficult, wells being a source. Piped water supply system reported under construction; after Italian occupation, project for bringing water by aqueduct reported.
Kúkës	Ample water supply from rivers and springs.
Peshkopia	Ample. Springs.
Scútari	Excellent. Numerous good wells.
Tirana	Wells. Distribution by primitive Eastern methods. An aqueduct may now be serving Tirana.
Valona	An aqueduct was completed in May, 1940.
Fieri Lushnja	Artesian wells are said to have been sunk at these places. After the Italian occupation,

there was a project for bringing water by aqueduct to Fieri.

Small sums have been voted for improving the water supply of other towns and villages.

Boiling or chlorination would be necessary before permitting troops to use water in the plains. Mountain water, unless fouled, should generally be drinkable without treatment.

c. Ice plants. Tirana and Córiza have large ice plants. Ice is manufactured also in Durazzo, Elbasan, Lúshnja, Fieri, Valona.

34. Railroads.

a. The Durazzo - ~~Tirana~~ - Elbasan line 83 km long is operated by a Division of the Italian State Railways. This is a single-track, standard gauge (4'8½") line. This line starts from Durazzo, following the road, more or less, not far from the coast of the Bay of Durazzo, then bearing north toward the south near Cavája, then along the valley of the Shkumbi River via Pekini to Elbasan. There are six tunnels, totaling 1 3/8 miles. The line is said to be adapted for a traffic capacity of a million tons per year. Temporary terminus LABINOTI - 11 km from Elbasan to Labinoti began at end of April 1940.

Philip Adams, O.S.S. says that this road is not yet completed; bridges, culverts and embankments are completed, but there are no rails or rolling stock

Light tracks are in use for the petroleum and bitumen fields.

b. Plans and surveys for the following lines are well advanced:

(1) A standard-gauge (4'8½") line from Durazzo to Valona.

(2) Two standard-gauge (4'8½") branch lines of the Durazzo - Elbasan line: one from Tirana to Dibra (Yugoslavia); the other from Elbasan to Struga (Yugoslavia).

(3) A standard-gauge (4'8½") line from Valona to Florina (Greece), an old plan for a fast connection between Rome and Athens and Istanbul via Brindisi and Valona.

35. Roads.

Albania has a fairly extensive road system connecting important places. At the end of 1939, the total length of the roads was about 1390.00469 miles.

The principal Albanian roads from the Adriatic to the interior are:

Dec '42
All checked roads are built up + in good condition. They are 6-8 wide + most are asphalted. Principal traffic is motor lorry + truck.

✓ Durazzo - Tirana (Via Littoria, completed at the outbreak of the war). asphalt
Durazzo - Cavája
Durazzo - Scútari
✓ Tirana - Scutari asphalt
Valona - Fieri
Valona - Tepeleni
Valona - Dukati
Porto Edda (Santi Quaranta) - Chimara
Porto Edda (Santi Quaranta) - Delvino
Porto Edda (Santi Quaranta) - Koníspoli

The principal international roads are:

To Greece.

Córiza - Bilishti - Flórina (Greece)
Permeti - Pérat - Giánnina (Greece)
Argirocastro - Giorgukati - Giánnina (Greece)
Koníspoli - Filiates (Greece)

To Yugoslavia.

Scútari - Podgorizza (Yugoslavia)
Scútari - Antivari (Yugoslavia) - Cettinje (Yugoslavia)
Kukës - Prízren (Yugoslavia)

Peshkopia - Dibra (Yugoslavia)

Elbasan - Librashi - Dibra (Yugoslavia)

Perparimi - Monastero di San Naum (Yugoslavia) - Ocrida (Yugoslavia), along the eastern shore of Lake Ocrida.

Perparimi - Lin - Struga (Yugoslavia), along the western shore of Lake Ocrida.

Córiza - Monastero di San Naum (Yugoslavia), a along Lake Prespa (Yugoslavia).

Other Roads.

Scútari - Theti

x Scútari - Puka - Kúkës - Prizren

Scutari - Podgoritza - asphalt as far as Tuza.

Kúkës - Peshkopia

Durazzo - Peshkopia

Durazzo - Elbasan

Durazzo - Bérat

x Durazzo - Valona

Elbasan - Librashi - Perparimi

Elbasan - Gramsci - (to be completed)to Córiza)

Elbasan - Gramsh - Gravdor - Malik - Korca - military road - not asphalt

Elbasan - Córiza

Bérat - Kelcyra - Permeti

Valona - Bérat

Valona - Kelcyra - Léskovik - Córiza

Valona - Porto Edda (Santi Quaranta)

x Valona - Argyocastro - asphalt

Valona - Kánina

Porto Edda (Santi Quaranta) - Argirocastro

Argirocastro - Pérat - Córiza

Argirocastro - Tepeleni - Kelcyra

Kelcyra - Permeti - Léskovik

Permoti - Frasheri - Córiza (probably now completed)

Tirana - Kruja - Buriel - Debar - not asphalted

x Tirana - Elbasan - Korca

Albanian roads were originally macadam.

After the Italian occupation, plans for 800 miles of trunk roads were approved, including the widening and strengthening of the existing road system. The plans provided for 26' wide carriageways of asphalt on concrete, gradients of 1 in 16 maximum, and 100' minimum radius of curves.

In September, 1940, some 200 miles of trunk roads were ready and 140 miles were under construction. These works included 9 large bridges completed, 20 under construction, 947 small bridges, and 649 existing bridges strengthened.

There are still mountain districts of the North which are inaccessible with wheeled vehicles, communications being by means of pack ponies or donkeys.

Motor vehicles. Statistics on motor vehicles are inadequate. Automotive vehicle registration was, as of January 31, 1940:

Trucks - 1290

Trailers - 86

Garages: repairing. Durazzo has the principal repair garage, which is of the latest type. Repair shops may be found in Scútari, Tirana, Elbasan, Bérat, Córiza, Valona, Permeti, Argirocastro, Porto Edda (Santi Quaranta). It was reported that a motor transport center was planned for Tirana, to consist of four office buildings and four motor repair shops.

Albanian chauffeurs are also good mechanics. Automobile engineers are scarce.

36. Shipping.

Durazzo is the principal port. It is of the newest construction.

Durazzo: port capacity, facilities. Note: Depth of water is depth on bar, unless otherwise stated.

Bay is one of the best anchorages on Albanian coast. Port 19-20 feet within half mile of town. Port is slightly more than 9,000,000 square feet in area. Anchorage in bay between 14 and 15 feet. Harbor open to E.S.E. The N.E. zone is undredged; the maximum depth is not more than 13 feet. The S.W. zone constitutes the true port, approximately 376,000 square feet in area, of which approximately 161,000 are dredged to 23 feet; 129,000 to 13 feet; the rest of the area is undredged.

Depth at entrance of harbor 23 feet. Dredged channel 24-25 feet deep, 656 feet wide at entrance, 918 feet wide at 1640 feet from entrance. Another channel with 23 foot soundings just under 400 feet long and about 130 feet wide flanks the extreme part of the eastern mole and serves for hauling alongside fuel tank-ships. (Unloading is effected through pipes running the entire length of the mole).

Harbor bounded on W. by natural shore. Approximately 1100 yards long; on N.W. by the small and medium wharves approximately 700 yards long; on W.S.W. by the western breakwater, approximately 1000 yards long; on S. by southern breakwater approximately 275 yards long; on E.S.E. by eastern breakwater approximately 1450 yards long.

Parallel to the western breakwater, at distances of 230 feet, 312 feet and 394 feet, are three lines of large wharves, each 492 feet long, with a depth alongside of 23 feet. They are known as the First, Second and Third, the latter being the farthest offshore. Ships unable to come alongside must discharge into lighters and boats. From the beginning of the first wharf and for a length of approximately 550 feet, there are middle-sized wharves with 13 feet soundings alongside. A mooring pier of wood and reinforced concrete, overall length 1706 feet, divides the harbor into two parts. There are small quays - length 1246 feet, soundings 6½ to 13 feet.

Estimated capacity: 2000 tons per day. It has been stated that six ships up to 10,000 tons can berth and discharge simultaneously. In 1939 the total average capacity was about 40 metric tons per hour. This must have increased since then.

Another estimate gives the capacity of the port at 3100 tons per day; it is stated that it is hoped to increase this to 4,000 tons as against 1100 tons before. It is probable that this estimate takes into account ships moored to buoys in harbor or stern on to wharves and discharging into lighters. The limiting factor to improvements would seem to be clearance.

Light-signals.

Boats anchored in the harbor can use (information dated June, 1941): one steam tug, 11 large lighters, 13 small rowboats or skiffs.

Equipment (information dated June, 1941): one 40-ton floating-crane; three small floating cranes; new equipment for handling shipments of iron ore to Italy.

On the Second wharf, there is a warehouse for temporary storage, having a capacity of just over 4800 cubic feet. Silos were in course of construction (1939).

The port was reported to have (information dated June, 1941):

A Diesel oil, and two gasoline tanks (each 800 tons capacity);

A large underground gasoline dump near Arapaj, gasoline and oil dumps near Shijak.

A narrow gauge railway runs along the wharves to the Customs House grounds.

Radiotelegraph station.

Other ports: capacity, facilities.

Porto Edda (Santi Quaranta).

The north channel to the harbor is nearly 1 3/4 miles wide; it recedes 3/4 mile. There are 30 fathoms of water half mile from the coast. There is a 328 foot quay opposite the Customs House. Less than 1000 feet from this quay are soundings of about 65-66 feet. The bottom is mud. However, at the entrance to the bay, near Point Balada, is a shoal, with soundings 6½ to 13 feet. The bay is sheltered from all but west winds.

There is a stone pier with deep water alongside and five wooden piers along the shore of the bay. In the northern corner of the bay there are two stone piers about 40' long with 5' alongside. There are no wharves for ocean-going vessels. There are wharves to handle six or so lighters at a time.

Large vessels anchor near the middle of the bay in depths of 15 to 17 fathoms in mud and sand. Small craft shelter in the northern part not far from the Customs House.

There are no lifting appliances; no warehouses.

Work is believed to be under way on harbor works and warehouses, but there are no details about port improvements.

There are four barges for freight and 14 rowboats for passengers and baggage.

Estimated daily capacity: 200 tons. The total average movement of work is 20 metric tons per hour.

Wireless telegraph station on the Gulf of Butrinto. Another south of Porto Edda in the ruined Church of Forty Saints.

There is a flashing white light at Point Balada; a fixed red light near the little port.

Cased gasoline is landed at a small jetty in Limion Bay, West Port.

San Giovanni di Medua.

At the entrance, the channel has a width of scarcely 26 feet and soundings of about 8 feet. But once inside this point, the soundings increase, but not uniformly, to 29½ feet, at some points. Silt which is deposited in great quantities tends to join the shoals on either side of the channel and destroy the usefulness of the harbor. But works of protection and dredging have been ordered.

Quay 295 feet long. In addition, wooden pier 157 - 158 feet long, which takes two vessels of about 1,000 tons. Behind the quay are four sheds, with a frontage of about 656 feet.

A new quay is being projected for ocean-going traffic.

Port has two lights at the end of the pier of the A.G.I.P.

Large vessels lie outside the port and unload by drifter. ? (lighter)

A few skiffs and lighters and a water boat with a capacity of five tons are available for discharging, loading or provisioning.

Estimated capacity per day: 300 tons, but possibly increased recently. Some estimates as high as 800 tons.

Petrol stores reported.

Sirocco (southeast wind) troublesome, but not dangerous to ships. Ships should, however, leave the port in event of a north wind, which strikes bay with great violence because of conformation of mountains.

San Nicolò (Island of Saseno).

The island has no civil population, being a naval station.

The harbor - San Nicolò - is protected by two breakwaters, 15 feet to 18 feet high. A stone quay runs the length of the west side of the harbor. There is deep water in the middle of the harbor and 6 fathoms along the quays. There is a large wireless telegraph station on the center of the island. Another in the harbor of San Nicolò Bay. Another small one on one of the jetties.

San Nicolò has one sheer legs capable of lifting 10 tons and one power-driven crane of 15 tons capacity.

Valona.

The port is about one mile and a quarter from the city.

The least protected of Albanian ports as regards prevailing weather, but the best equipped as regards local road approaches and external road communications. The coastal area to the north is swampy.

Anchorage in bay is somewhat exposed and passenger steamers have frequently had to go to Porto Edda (Santi Quaranta) to discharge passengers.

There are two concrete and wooden wharves at the port: one 20 feet deep at its head, 13 feet wide and 250 yards long; the other 150 yards long, 20 feet wide and depths of 15 feet alongside. Small ships can berth to both sides of the jetties. A 1-ton crane on the Government (second) pier; two traveling cranes, one of three tons and one of 10 tons elsewhere. A meter gauge (3,2808 feet,or 3' 3 3/8") horse tramway runs on both piers and connects them with the port. A number of warehouses and sheds. Others under construction.

Outside the port zone, there is a small pier with several installations of the Azienda Italiana Petroli Albanèsi.

As many as 22 ships, 13 of which were between 5,000 and 15,000 tons, are said to have been in the harbor at the same time.

There are three tugs, one motor boat, 11 barges (one of which is a motor barge), 11 rowboats for passengers and some outboard motor boats. The Società Vlora e lirë, which has let from the Municipality the business of loading and unloading passengers and goods, has one tug, several barges and a motor boat.

Average operations: about 30 metric tons per hour.

Two or perhaps three underground oil tanks.

Naval base.

Minor harbors and anchorages.

Porto Palermo.

A small deep-water harbor, where ships can be close in. Technically preferable to any other port except Durazzo, but has poor communications with the interior.

Porto Spílio.

Landing-stage, serving also Chimara. As there is plenty of water, ships can come close in.

Harbor is safe except when sirocco (southeast wind) blows.

There was a portable wooden jetty, but ships generally unloaded into small boats.

Scútari.

Lake port.

About 15 motor craft and 300 other boats for transporting people and for fishing.

Semeni.

At the mouth of the Semeni River.

Much mud. Swampy neighborhood, malarial climate.

One small pier. Customs office.

Road to Fieri recently improved.

Vivari.

Vorbes.

Jali.)
Patok.) Unimportant. Dangerous in some weathers.
Pulaj.)

37. Commercial Aviation.

a. Air lines: As of 1939, Albania had the following air lines:

Tirana - Valona
Tirana - Valona - Argirocastro
Tirana - Córiza - Argirocastro
Argirocastro - Córiza
Tirana - Scútari
Tirana - Devoli
Tirana - Kúkës
Tirana - Peshkopia
Tirana - Scútari - Kúkës - Tirana

The following routes may still be in operation, with some semblance of regularity:

Tirana - Scútari - Podgorizza (Yugoslavia) - Cettinje (Yugoslavia) - daily.
Rome (Italy) - Tirana - Salonika (Greece) - Sofia (Bulgaria) - Bucharest (Roumania)- thrice weekly.

b. Airports and airfields. The following information is as of May, 1941.

Abbreviations.

App - approximately
A/A - antiaircraft
a/c - aircraft
u/g - underground
u/s - unserviceable
W/T - wireless telegraph

AIRPORTS

Name	Type	Position	Altitude	Location	Dimensions	Surface	Facilities
Argirocastro	Emergency	40.04 N 20.08 E		0.9 miles N of town on Giánnina road.	5906' x 5906'	Fair, believed all weather.	Suitable for small aircraft. Improvements in progress.
Alag-Bogija	Emergency	41.30 N 20.32 E		4.9 miles NW of Dibra (Yugoslavia)			
Aléssio	Emergency	41.48 N 19.38 E		About 1.8 miles S of Baldrin.			
Arta. See Valona							
Bérat (Devoli)	Emergency	40.43 N 19.56 E			3480' x 1725'	Appears damp, concrete servicing strips.	4 hangars and other small bldgs., A/A, roads, suspected u/g fuel stores.
Bilishti	Emergency	40.38 N 20.59 E					
Bulajart	Emergency	39,50 N 20.10 E			787.4' x 229.7'(?) Rectangular.		
Cantia	Emergency	40.50 N 19.55 E (App)		3.7 miles S of Iusnia (Kosovë?)			
Córiza	Emergency	40.38 N 20.47 E	2760'		3281' x 3281'	Dry, good condition.	5 hangars, fuel, two hangars used as workshops. Road. Rail.
Córiza (Drenovë)		40,35 N 20.45 E			4265' x 4265'		Big enough to take 150 aircraft.
Cróia		41.30 N 19.45 E					
Delvino	Emergency	39.55 N 20.07 E		9.3 miles SW of Argirocastro.			
Dratchoa	Emergency	40.10 N 20.30 E (App)		N side of main Bérat – Giánnina road.			

CONFIDENTIAL

AIRPORTS

Name	Type	Position	Altitude	Location	Dimensions	Surface	Facilities
Durazzo	Emergency	41.19 N 19.28 E			3937' x 2624' x 1640'	Good. All weather.	Several hangars, fuel, suitable for small aircraft.
Elbasan	Emergency	41.05 N 20.02 E		3.1 miles SW of Elbasan		All weather.	
Fieri	Emergency	40.42 N 19.35 E			690' x 295'		
Konispoli		39.40 N 20.10 E (App)					
Kopliku	Emergency	42.15 N 19.40 E (App)					Reported under construction August 12,1940.
Kruma		42.12 N 20.25 E					
Kucova (Kushove)		40.46 N 19.52 E	9,500'		2880' x 228'	Poor condition. 2 narrow concrete strips.	Ten huts. New concrete runway.
Kúkës	Emergency	42.04 N 20.27 E	1,148'		5905' x 2624'	Good, u/s in winter. Heavy snow.	W/T, telephone, suitable for small a/c only.
Lèskovik		40.09 N 20.34 E					
Libohva	Emergency	40.03 N 20.16 E			492' x 229', rectangular		
Lixha	Emergency	41.05 N 20.06 E					
Magellare	Emergency	41.35 N (App) 20.30 E (App)					Under construction.
Pekini	Emergency	41.02 N 19.42 E (App)					
Permeti	Emergency	40.15 N 20.21 E		Between Permeti and Kutal.			Under construction. Reported.

CONFIDENTIAL

AIRPORTS

Name	Type	Position	Altitude	Location	Dimensions	Surface	Facilities
Perparimi (Pogradec)	Emergency	40.53 N 20.40 E		Close to Lake Ocrida.	11811' x 3937'		
Peshkopia	Emergency	41.41 N 20.26 E	1500'		1620' x 660'	Good, heavy snow in winter.	3 hangars, 2 workshops, track from town.
Porto Edda (Santa Quaranta)	Emergency	39.52 N 20.02 E			964' x 3937'		
Puka	Emergency	42.11 N 20.00 E					Under construction. Reported.
Radostina		40.38 N 19.33 E					Unconfirmed.
Saseno Isle		40.29 N 19.17 E (App)					Two, one underground, each with hangar and workshop.
Scutari (Shkodra)	Emergency	42.06 N 19.32 E			2610' x 1320'	Landing strips. Floods not unlikely.	1 small hangar, fuel, A/A defense.
Scutari (Vraka)		42.13 N 19.29 E					
Salesi	Emergency	39.43 N 20.10 E (App)					Reported under construction.
San Giovanni di Medua		41.48 N 19.36 E					
Spas See Vau Spas							
Starova		40.45 N 20.40 E (App)	6355		11811' x 3937'		
Tchostil	Emergency	41.57 N 20.20 E		East of River Drin Nero, S of Tchostil village.			

AIRPORTS

Name	Type	Position	Altitude	Location	Dimensions	Surface	Facilities
Tirana	Emergency	41.20 N 19.47 E	390'		3900' x 1950'	Good, all weather. Landing strips.	4 hangars, three under construction. Fuel, workshops, rail, roads, W/T, telephone.
Valona (Arta)	Emergency	40.27 N 19.30 E			4200' x 2700' Runways 4593' x 656'.	Suitable for heavy bombers.	1 hangar NW corner. Track across salt marsh.
Valona (Old)	Municipal	40.21 N 20.00 E			2460' x 524'	Rough landing strip.	1 hangar, A/A defense. Can take only small a/c.
Vau Spas	Emergency	42.11 N 20.17 E		Near Spas village.			
Vorra	Emergency	41.25 N 19.38 E		At junction of main road to the W of Vorra village.			

There are natural landing fields on the high plateaus of northern Albania, on the Córiza plain and on the Kolonjë plateau. The plateaus in northern Albania can afford camouflage for aircraft.

38. Commerce.

Before the present war (through 1938), Albania engaged in commerce principally with Italy, Yugoslavia, Roumania, Germany, Czechoslovakia, England, Greece, the United States and Japan.

Italy appeared to be the largest importer and exporter. Almost 80 percent of Albanian exports were absorbed by Italy; less than 25 percent of Albanian imports came from Italy. The chief exports were crude petroleum, solid bitumens, livestock, hides and skins (fresh, dry, salted), fresh olives, vegetables (fresh and dry), eggs, cheese. On ores, see par. 31, *i*. The chief imports were hides and skins (raw and prepared for use as sole-leather), sugar, maize, wheat, rice, coffee, building wood, autovehicles.

After the "union" with Italy (1939), Albania became an integral part of the Italian system of self-sufficiency (autarchy).

Some foreign trade - export and import - was carried on in 1939. On the whole, however, there appears to be little information concerning Albanian trade relations since the war.

It is probable that since Italy's entrance into the war, Albania has carried on export and import trade chiefly with Italy, Germany and the Axis-dominated countries of Europe, and that the Italians are fixing Albanian export and import prices.

39. Communications.

a. Postal services. In 1937, Albania had 53 post offices.

b. Telegraph. In 1939, there were 53 telegraph offices of the Albanian State Administration.

The principal towns and all military posts in villages and all military observation places are connected by telegraph.

Albania has telegraphic connections with Yugoslavia and Greece:

Argirocastro - Giánnina (Greede)
Córiza - Salonika (Greece)
Tirana - Dibra (Yugoslavia)
Scútari - Cettinje (Yugoslavia)

The Morse code is widely used.

Because of the mountainous nature of the country, underground cables are not extensively used. For the same reason, telegraph communications are difficult to maintain and frequently become damaged.

Materials. There is probably still little uniformity in kind and size of wire. Rough wooden poles of varying height and diameter have supported the lines along most of the distances. It is doubtful whether those poles could support any considerable extra strain. Only in towns have the poles been somewhat more regular. In some towns, metal standards had been erected.

Actual instruments in use are mostly of Austrian make in the North and of Italian make in the South.

c. Telephones. The principal towns and all military posts in villages and all military observation places are connected by telephone. Albania has telephonic connections with Yugoslavia and Greece.

The extent of telephonic development in Albania is indicated by the following information concerning State-managed telephones (1939):

Number of centrals	
Manual	56
Automatic	1
Number of lines of subscribers connected to -	
Manual centrals	795
Automatic centrals	150 (Tirana)
Number of subscribers	1015
Number of public telephones	46

The number of telephones in Durazzo was recently reported to be 193; in Tirana about 250, excluding 150 on the automatic circuit.

Interurban circuits	
Number	1
Length (in miles)	49.7

Very few private persons have had telephones.

Until lately, there was no published list of subscribers and no numbers had been allotted. Booklets with names and numbers for the Durazzo exchange and the Tirana automatic circuit were recently issued.

Telegraph lines for telephony. Two lines connecting Tirana with Durazzo are the only lines used exclusively as telephone lines. In all other cases, the telegraphic lines also serve for telephonic communication. Where there are two or three telegraph lines between two towns and one is cleared for a telephone conversation, interference is likely when the other line or lines are being used for telegraphic purposes. Where there is only a single line, audibility should be reasonably good.

Equipment. The type of telephone most commonly used is that manufactured by Siemens and stocked by S.I.T.A.

d. Submarine cables.

(1) Durazzo - Brindisi (Italy), connected

by land line with Bari. Enters the sea about 1.8 miles north of Durazzo. Understood to have only a single line.

After the Italian occupation (April, 1939), money was set aside for submarine cable service between Brindisi and Durazzo (presumably to duplicate the existing one) and for overhead communication between Durazzo and Tirana.

(2) Work had progressed (April, 1940) on a modern cable, for telegraph and telephone, between Durazzo and Bari (Italy).

(3) Valona - Saseno - Brindisi (Italy).

No information available with regard to e exact location.

(4) Valona - Otranto (Italy)

One conductor.

No information available with regard to exact location.

(5) Teletype. Teleprinter apparatus for use in connection with these submarine cables has been installed at Durazzo, Valona, Tirana.

e. Radio. As of 1939, there were State-managed fixed radiotelegraph stations as follows:

Type	Number
Transmitting	4
Receiving	4

Small wireless stations were recently reported to be under construction, to supplement telegraphic communications, at: Scútari, Kúkës, Tirana, Córiza, Valona.

The short-wave station at Tirana has been considered one of the most powerful in the Balkans. The station has a power of three kilowatts and operates on wave-lengths of 38.22 meters and 49.31 meters. It is used for radiotelephone business conversations between Tirana and Italy; for radiotelegraphy, generally when cable is not available; and for broadcasting. In December, 1939, it was announced that this station would shortly be replaced by a 50-watt medium-wave station, but no such new station yet appears to be functioning.

An experimental station for Tirana only (Tirana II) of 10-watts has been operating on a wavelength of 284 meters.

Broadcasting stations, less powerful than the Tirana, may be found at Peshkopia, Coriza, Argirocastro.

Durazzo has a meteorological station, operating on 500-kilocycles.

Radio receiving sets. The following information is as of about the latter part of 1938:

According to local dealers, there were about 3,500 radio receiving sets in Albania. Between 300 and 400 sets were being sold annually; sales were gradually increasing. The Government was purchasing 100 receiving sets to be distributed to the communes; they were to be equipped with extra loudspeakers for public audition. Automobile radios were not often demanded.

40. Finance.

The National Bank of Albania has the exclusive power to issue metal coinage and paper money. The Bank, established in Rome in 1925, is Italian-dominated.

The Albanian monetary unit is the Albanian franc (5 lek) (.2903225 gr.), with a parity of 6,25 lire. An Albanian gold franc is worth about one-third of an American dollar. (Dec 42 - about 60¢)

The Bank has issued Bank notes of 100, 20, and 5 Albanian francs and metallic currency as follows: gold - 100, 50, 20, and 10 franc pieces; silver - 2 and 1 franc pieces; nickel - 1 lek (.2 franc), ½lek (.1 franc), and ¼lek (.05 franc) pieces; bronze - .02 and .01 franc pieces.